

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-22 are pending in the application. Claim 18 is canceled without prejudice. Claims 5-14 and 16-17 are withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1-22 are subject to a requirement for restriction under 35 U.S.C. § 121 and 372. The following Groups were identified:

Group I, claims 1-17 and 19-22, drawn to a method of treating neoplasms.

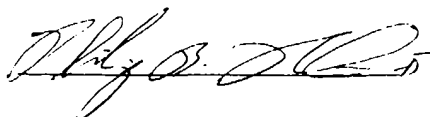
Group II, claim 18, drawn to a combination composition.

Without acquiescing to the propriety of this restriction, applicants elect Group I, claims 1-17 and 19-22. Claim 18 is canceled without prejudice to its subsequent presentation in a continuation or divisional application.

A further election of species, for purposes of prosecution on the merits, was also required. A single compound, as well as a single neoplasm to be treated, was requested. Claim 2 is directed to particular neoplasms, while claim 3 is directed to particular MMP inhibiting compounds. Applicants elect lung cancer, the first indicated neoplasia disorder of claim 2, and Agouron AG-3340, the compound of claim 15, and the eleventh named compound of claims 3 and 4, for prosecution on the merits. Claims 1-4, 15 and 19-22 are readable thereon. Accordingly, claims 5-14 and 16-17 are withdrawn from consideration, but it is requested that upon the determination of allowability of a generic claim, claims 5-14 and 16-17 be rejoined.

If the Examiner believes a telephonic interview with Applicant's representative would aid in the prosecution of this application, she is cordially invited to contact Applicant's representative at the below listed number.

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